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HOW TO USE THE PESTICIDE LABEL

PROCESSED
ALPHABETICALLY

The importance of reading the pesticide label cannot be stressed too often. The information that appears on the label is put there for your information and protection. If it is read, understood, and all the directions followed, the likelihood of misusing the material or of having an accident with the pesticide is remote. This is why we so often stress that "the most important few minutes in pest control is the time spent in reading the label." Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act as amended in 1972, the use of any registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling can result in civil and criminal penalties.

In U.S. Department of Agriculture publications, pesticides are referred to by their approved common names or trademark names when no approved common name has been designated. The common name of the pesticide may not be conspicuous on the pesticide label. However, the common name can usually be found under the active ingredients statement on the label. For additional information on pesticides, you may wish to contact your State Extension Agricultural Chemical Leader. A list of these leaders can be found at the end of this publication.

Information on the Label

The printed material on a pesticide label has all the necessary information and instructions for the effective and safe use of the pesticide. The printed and graphic matter on pesticide labeling is required to contain the necessary--

- * Brand name.
- * Intended use of the product.
- * Ingredient statement.
- * Directions for use--
 - Pests to be controlled.
 - Crops, animals, or sites to be treated.
 - Dosage, time, limitations, and method of application.
- * Warnings--
 - To protect user.

- To protect consumer of treated foods.
- To protect beneficial plants and animals.
- To keep out of reach of children.
- * Net contents.
- * Name and address of manufacturer or registrant.
- * Registration number.

When to Read the Label

1. Before you purchase the chemical, read the label to determine:
 - * To what plants it can be applied and if it is the chemical you need for the job. Never purchase or select for use a pesticide based on the color of the label. Labels of the same color and general make-up may contain widely different active ingredients.
 - * Whether this material is too toxic or hazardous to be used safely under your conditions.
 - * Concentration in percent or pounds per gallon of active ingredient.
 - * Formulation is suitable for your application equipment, such as duster, compressed air sprayer, or garden hose applicator.
2. Before you mix the material, read the directions to determine:
 - * Protective equipment necessary when handling it.
 - * Warnings and antidotes, when required.
 - * What you can mix with it.
 - * How to mix it.
 - * How much to use.
3. Before applying, read the directions to determine:
 - * Safety measures and possible protective clothing necessary for the applicator.
 - * To what it can be applied.
 - * When to apply, including waiting period before harvest or field entry after application on crops and animals.
 - * How to apply.
 - * Rate of application.
 - * Restrictions on use.
 - * Special instructions.
4. Before storing or disposing of the pesticide container, read the directions to determine:
 - * Where and how to store.
 - * Where it should not be stored.
 - * What it should not be stored with.
 - * How to decontaminate and dispose of the container.
 - * Where to dispose of left-over pesticides or containers.

Key Words and Symbols on the Label

Many of the terms used on labels are set by law.

Certain words such as "Danger," "Poison," "Warning," and "Caution," and the skull and cross bones symbol are required by law to appear on the label. They indicate the degree of toxicity of the pesticide.

The words "Danger" and "Poison," and the skull and cross bones symbol, are required on the labels for all highly toxic compounds.

The word "Warning" is required on the labels of all moderately toxic compounds.

The word "Caution" is required on the labels for all other compounds.

Unwarranted claims for safety are not acceptable on any label and all labels must bear the statement, "Keep out of the reach of children."

A knowledge of the meaning of the cautionary words and symbols forewarns the user of potential hazards associated with the chemicals.

STATE EXTENSION AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL LEADERS
JANUARY 1974

<u>State</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
ALABAMA	Worth Lanier, Chairman Environmental Health Division 220 Duncan Hall Auburn University Auburn 36830	205/826-4941
	Talmadge Balch Specialist in Pesticide Education	205/826-4940
	John Elliott, Jr. Specialist, Pesticide Education	205/826-4940
ALASKA	Alan C. Epps, Coordinator Agricultural Chemicals Program Box 95151 University of Alaska Fairbanks 99701	907/479-7200
ARIZONA	Leon Moore Extension Entomologist University of Arizona Tucson 85721	602/844-1421
ARKANSAS	Curtis L. Mason Chemicals Specialist University of Arkansas Box 391 Little Rock 72203	501/376-6301

CALIFORNIA	J. E. Swift Statewide Coordinator-Pesticides 329 University Hall University of California 2200 University Avenue Berkeley 94720	415/642-0179
	J. Blair Bailey Pesticide Safety Specialist & Entomologist	415/642-5065
COLORADO	Bert L. Bohmont Agricultural Chemicals Coordinator College of Agricultural Science 121 Agricultural Building Colorado State University Fort Collins 80521	303/491-5353 491-5237
CONNECTICUT	Milton G. Savos Extension Entomologist Plant Science Department College of Agriculture University of Connecticut Storrs 06268	203/486-2928
DELAWARE	John S. McDaniel Specialist in Agricultural Chemicals Entomology & Applied Ecology Dept. University of Delaware Newark 19711	302/738-2526
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	John Jenkins Acting Director of Extension Federal City College 1424 K Street, N.W. Washington 20005	202/727-2113
FLORIDA	J. E. Brogdon Extension Entomologist University of Florida Gainesville 32601	904/392-1938
	J. R. Strayer Extension Entomologist	904/392-1938
GEORGIA	Emmett D. Harris Extension Entomologist & Pesticide Chemical Coordinator Extension Entomology Department University of Georgia Athens 30602	404/542-1765

HAWAII	George Nakasato Assistant Director Agricultural Production, Conservation & Marketing University of Hawaii 2525 Varney Circle Honolulu 96822	808/948-8139
IDAHO	Roland W. Portman Extension Entomologist (State Extension Chemical Leader) Department of Entomology University of Idaho Moscow 83843	208/885-6595
ILLINOIS	H. B. Petty, Coordinator Pesticide Chemicals Program University of Illinois 280 Natural Resources Building Urbana 61801	217/333-6652
INDIANA	David L. Matthew Extension Entomologist Entomology Department Purdue University Lafayette 47907	317/749-2917
	James L. Williams, Jr. Botany & Plant Pathology Department Purdue University Lafayette 47907	317/749-2946
IOWA	Stephen O. Ryan Extension Associate Pesticide Safety 103 Insectary Iowa State University Ames 50010	515/294-1101
KANSAS	Frank G. Bieberly, Section Leader Extension Specialist, Crops & Soils Agronomy Department Kansas State University Manhattan 66506	913/532-6107
KENTUCKY	James W. Herron Extension Specialist in Weed Control Department of Agronomy University of Kentucky Lexington 40506	606/258-4898

LOUISIANA	John W. Impson, Coordinator Pesticide-Chemicals Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service Louisiana State University Baton Rouge 70803	504/388-2180
MAINE	Arthur Gall Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety Deering Hall University of Maine Orono 04473	207/581-7703
MARYLAND	W. C. Harding, Program Leader Pesticide Chemicals University of Maryland College Park 20742	301/454-3845
MASSACHUSETTS	John A. Naegele, Head Department of Environmental Sciences Waltham Field Station 240 Beaver Street Waltham 02154	617/891-0650
	C. J. Gilgut Department of Plant Pathology University of Massachusetts Fernald Hall Amherst 01002	413/545-2280
MICHIGAN	Donald C. Cress Extension Chemical Leader Extension Service Michigan State University East Lansing 48823	517/353-3890
MINNESOTA	John A. Lofgren Extension Entomologist University of Minnesota St. Paul 55101	612/373-1044
	Philip K. Harein Extension Entomologist	612/373-1705
MISSISSIPPI	David F. Young, Leader Extension Entomology Mississippi State University Box 5426 Mississippi State 39762	601/325-4524

MISSOURI	George W. Thomas Extension Pesticide Chemicals Coordinator & Entomologist I-63 Agricultural Building University of Missouri Columbia 65201	314/882-3337
MONTANA	Manford J. Jackson, Extension Agronomist Agricultural Chemical Education Montana Extension Service Montana State University Bozeman 59715	406/994-3515
NEBRASKA	John D. Furrer Pesticide Chemical Coordinator Keim Hall University of Nebraska East Campus Lincoln 68503	402/472-2811
NEVADA	Harry Smith Pesticide Specialist Cooperative Extension Service University of Nevada Reno 89507	702/784-6911
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Jim Bowman Pesticide Coordinator & Extension Entomologist University of New Hampshire Durham 03824	603/862-1159
NEW JERSEY	Ray R. Kriner, Coordinator Pesticide-Chemicals Program Rutgers University Georges Road Laboratory, Box 231 New Brunswick 08903	201/932-9801
NEW MEXICO	John Durkin Extension Entomologist New Mexico State University Las Cruces 88003	505/646-1411
NEW YORK	J. E. Dewey Program Leader, Chemicals- Pesticides Department of Entomology Cornell University Ithaca 14850	607/256-3283

	R. F. Pendleton Technician-Situation Survey	607/256-3283
NORTH CAROLINA	Gerald T. Weekman Pesticide Coordinator 2309 Gardner Hall North Carolina State University Raleigh 27607	919/737-2697 737-2703
NORTH DAKOTA	Wayne Colberg Entomologist & Pesticide Coordinator Cooperative Extension Service North Dakota State University University Station Fargo 58102	701/237-7581
OHIO	A. C. Waldron Extension Specialist, Pesticide Chemicals Ohio State University 1735 Neil Avenue Columbus 43210	614/422-4120
OKLAHOMA	Newton W. Flora Extension Entomologist Oklahoma State University Stillwater 74075	405/372-6211 x 7066-7067
OREGON	Joseph Capizzi Extension Specialist Pesticide Safety Program Department of Entomology Oregon State University Corvallis 97331	503/754-3151
PENNSYLVANIA	Delbert L. Bierlein Pesticides Coordinator 102 Patterson Building Pennsylvania State University University Park 16802	814/865-4621
PUERTO RICO	Miguel Gonzales-Flores Specialist-Pesticide Program University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras 00927	809/766-0000
RHODE ISLAND	J. Lincoln Pearson Pesticide Coordinator University of Rhode Island Kingston 02881	401/792-2791

SOUTH CAROLINA	J. B. Kissam Extension Chemicals Leader Entomology Department Clemson University Clemson 29631	803/656-3113
SOUTH DAKOTA	Wayne Berndt Extension Pesticide Specialist South Dakota State University Brookings 57007	605/688-6176
TENNESSEE	R. P. Mullett Entomologist and Leader University of Tennessee Post Office Box 1071 Knoxville 37901	615/974-7138
TEXAS	Jack D. Price Leader, Agricultural Chemicals Texas A & M University College Station 77843	713/845-1353
UTAH	Reed S. Roberts Extension Entomologist Utah State University Logan 84322	801/752-4100 x 7831
VERMONT	Gordon R. Nielsen Pesticide-Chemical Coordinator Entomology-Hills Building University of Vermont Burlington 05401	802/656-2626 656-2627
VIRGINIA	Norman E. Lau, Coordinator Chemical, Drug and Pesticide Unit 202 Price Hall Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University Blacksburg 24061	703/951-6543 951-5250
	R. H. Gruenhagen Extension Specialist Chemical, Drug and Pesticide Unit	703/951-6543 951-5250
	T. Paul Siburt Extension Specialist Chemical, Drug and Pesticide Unit	703/951-6543 951-5250
VIRGIN ISLANDS	Fenton B. Sands, Director Virgin Islands Extension Service Post Office Box 166 Kingshill, St. Croix Virgin Islands 00850	809/733-0246

WASHINGTON	Richard C. Maxwell Pesticide Specialist Department of Agricultural Chemistry Washington State University Pullman 99163	509/335-3413
WEST VIRGINIA	David O. Quinn State Extension Specialist - Safe Use of Pesticides & Chemicals 408 Brooks Hall West Virginia University Morgantown 26506	304/293-2293 293-3912
WISCONSIN	Ellsworth Fisher, Coordinator Agricultural Chemicals Program University of Wisconsin Madison 53706	608/262-3226
WYOMING	Alvin F. Gale Extension Pesticide Specialist University of Wyoming University Station Post Office Box 3354 Laramie 82070	307/766-3369

EXTENSION SERVICE

L. C. Gibbs, Program Leader Pesticide Chemicals Extension Service U. S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D. C. 20250	202/447-4481
Paul W. Bergman Extension Entomologist	202/447-6310
Joseph M. Good Director, Pest Management Programs	202/447-6506
Harlan E. Smith Extension Plant Pathologist	202/447-7970
Fred E. Westbrook Extension Agronomist (Crops & Weeds)	202/447-2506

